



Arthur D. Healey Schoolyard Design Considerations

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



Ward 4 Alderman Jesse Clinghan

Community Meeting No. 1

January 10, 2019

Welcome!



Ward 4 Alderman Jesse Clingan, the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, and the Friends of the Healey invite you to the first community meeting to discuss renovation ideas for the

Arthur D. Healey Schoolyard Design. *- Community Meeting -*

Please join us. Share ideas and influence decisions.

What is your vision for the Healey Schoolyard?

We want to hear your thoughts before selecting a landscape architecture firm for the project.

When: Thursday, January 10th, 2019 6:00-7:30pm

Where: Healey School cafeteria at 5 Meacham Street



For more information, contact Arn Franzen
at: AFranzen@somervillema.gov
The City of Somerville is on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)



Tonight's agenda:

- Introductions
- Review Location and Brief History
- Design Objectives
- City Design Requirements
- Review Existing Conditions
- Discussion
- Closing

Location



Brief History

1950's: The Arthur D. Healey School was built (1955) on top of the bluff. The Somerville Housing Authority Built Mystic View (1954) and Mystic River Apartments (1957) are constructed.

1973: I-93 is constructed, separating the community from the river.

Early 1980's: The two staircases were installed on the bluff connecting Mystic Housing to the school.

Late 1990's: The Healey School is renovated.

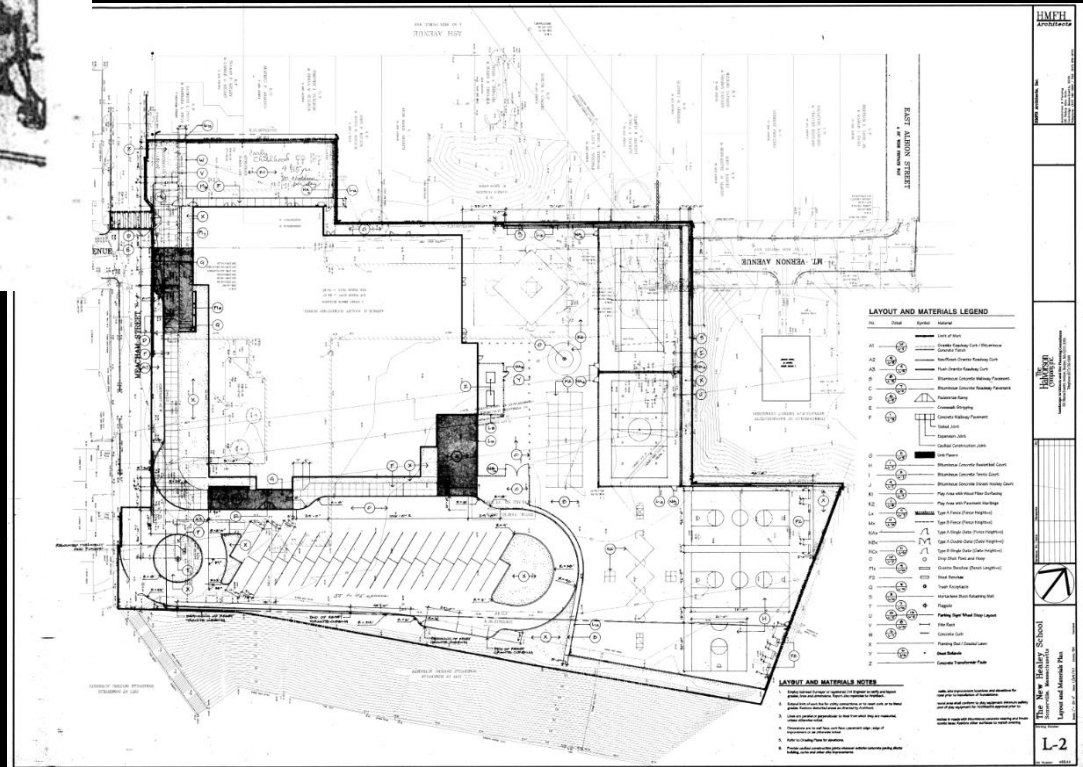
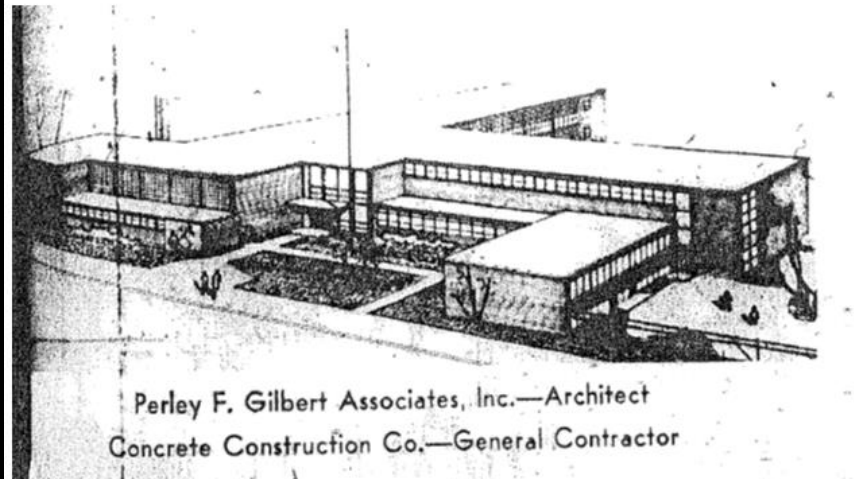
2011 : The Friends of the Healey start discussions with the City about ideas for the schoolyard which could 1) improve the school's outdoor environment , 2) strengthen the connections between the outdoors and the school curriculum , and 3) recognize the importance of community in children's lives.

2016 The Friends of the Healey in partnership with the City Parks and Open Space Department apply for CPA funds to develop the Healey/ Mystic Master Plan.

2017 The Healey Mystic Master Plan is issued. The City Parks and Open Space Department in partnership with the School Department apply for and are awarded \$80,000 in CPA funds for the schoolyard design.

What are the school and City objectives for the new design?

Healey School





Healey Schoolyard Design Objectives: Two Phases

Phase I)

Develop a new design for the schoolyard.

Work with the community and a qualified landscape architect to develop plans.

STARTS TONIGHT!

Phase II)

Achieve the vision of the Healey Mystic Master Plan and the goals of the City of Somerville Fields Master Plan

Work has started and will continue in parallel under a separate scope of work.

Arthur D. Healey Schoolyard Design

Why is it so important to renovate our schoolyards?

Research shows:

- Quality schoolyard design and increased access to recreation can benefit children's physical and mental health and their academic performance. Play improves healthy childhood brain development and can lead to better schoolwork among preschool and primary-level students.
- Contact with nature has been tied to health in many studies. Time spent in and around tree-lined streets, parks, and playgrounds is linked to objective, long-term health outcomes including a reduction in depression and anxiety disorder, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obesity and migraines.

City of Somerville Planning Objectives:

- The City's Open Space and Recreation Plan prioritizes the need for schoolyard renovations.

What will be the City's focus of the new designs?

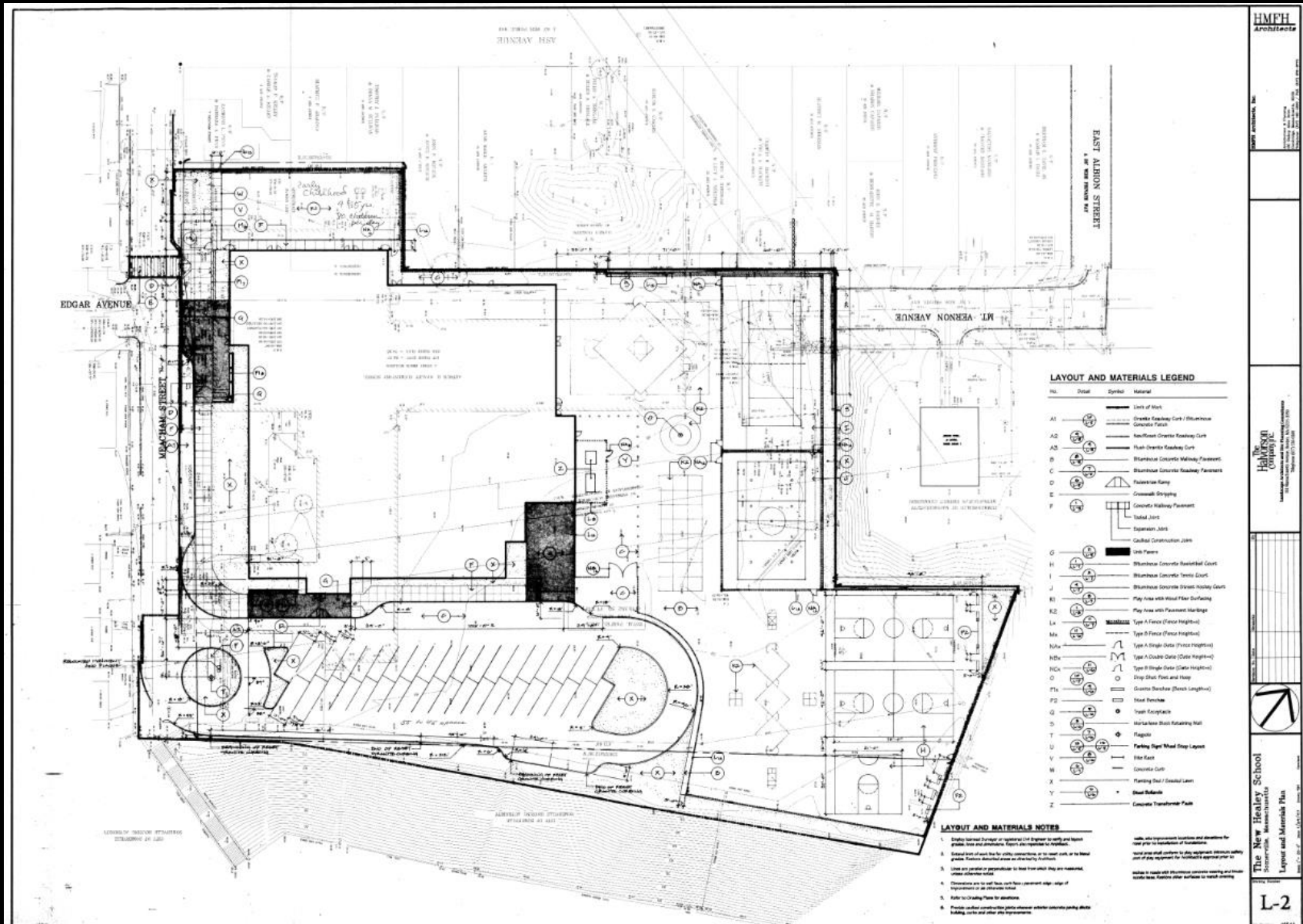
- Safety and security for all students
- 100% ADA access
- Opportunities for active and passive recreation and contact with nature.
- Outdoor classroom spaces to support teaching and learning.
- Imaginative, interactive, and age-appropriate play features.
- Points of access, good circulation and connectivity between spaces and the school

What are the existing conditions?

- The main schoolyard is an expanse of cracked and patched asphalt and fencing, devoid of any significant features except basketball backboards and painted court games. Exceptions include some trees and benches at the perimeter, and the school garden.
- The tot-lot at the front and side of the school is in good condition, but needs repairs and updates.

The existing schoolyard
is a blank slate. What
do we want to
consider?

Existing Conditions:



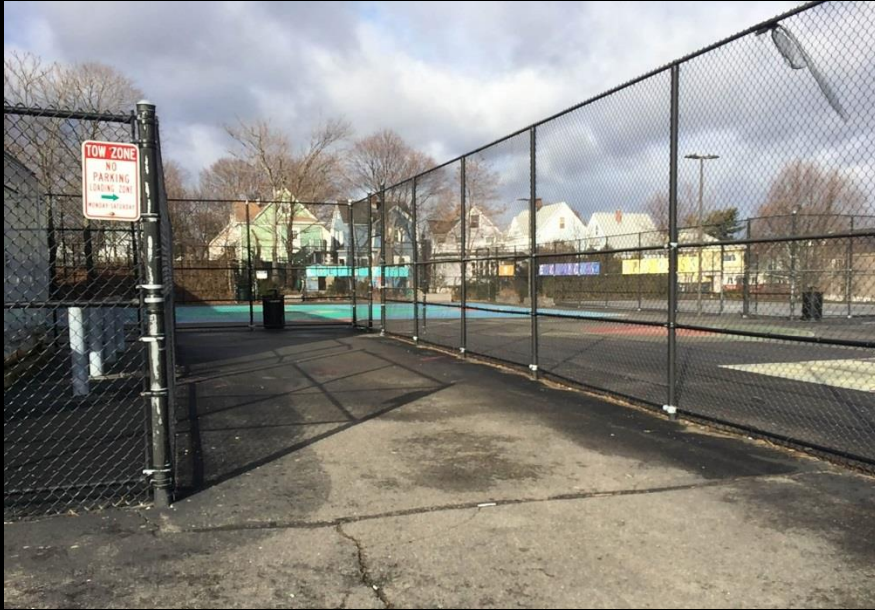


ey School

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



Tot-Lot Existing Conditions



**What could the schoolyard
look like?**







Estimated Healey Schoolyard Design Timeline

January
2019
Meeting 1

Feb-
March
2019

Issue RFP,
Evaluate
Vendor
Proposals,
select
Landscape
Architect.

Spring –
Late Fall
2019 *Work
with LA and
community to
develop the
schoolyard
design. Three
meetings.*

Winter 2019
Complete Plans
and
Construction
Drawings

2020 Work with
Board of Alderman
and City
Administration to
appropriate funding
for construction.

Discussion/Questions:

What are your ideas?

What have you seen that needs repair or replacement?

What are your concerns?

What are the needs of the school and the neighborhood?



Phase II

GOALS:

Reconnect the community.

**Provide critical recreation field
resources.**



0

Project Bo

Blessing of the
Bay Boathouse

Mystic
Activity
Center

Arthur D.
Healey School

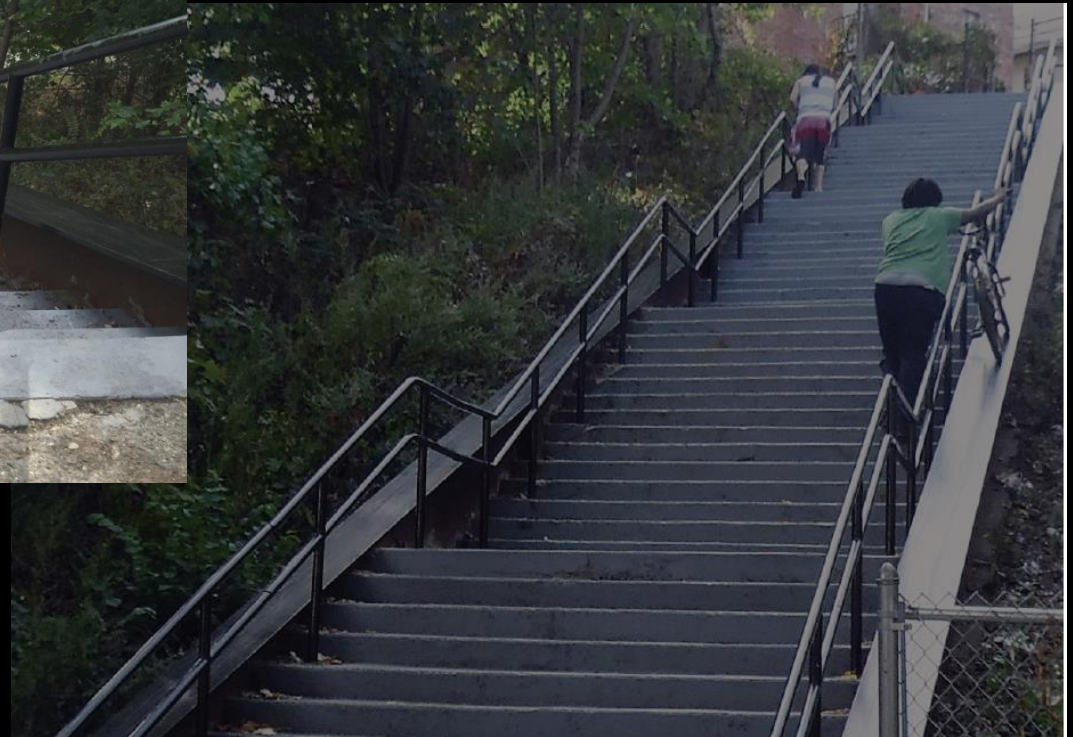
Phase II

New ADA Paths between Mystic Housing and the School



Phase II

New ADA Paths needed between Mystic Housing and the School recreation needs



Phase II

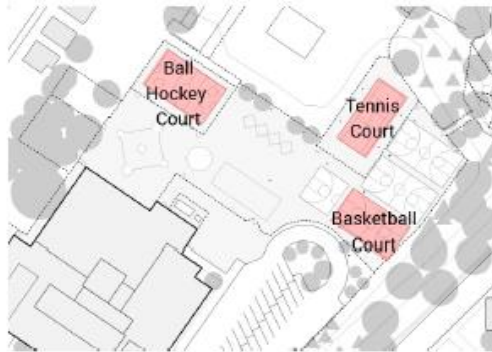
New U-12 playing field to provide for critical recreation needs



Phase II

Comparative Overlays

0 50 1
Field Size
Field & Sidelines



Existing Athletic Courts



U-14 Soccer Regulation Size
15' Sideline Offset



U-12 Soccer Regulation Size
15' Sideline Offset



U-12 Soccer Regulation Size
15' Sideline Offset



Caouano School Field Size



East Somerville School Soccer Field Size

Phase II



Contact:

Arn Franzen

Director of Parks and Open Space

617-625-6600 ext 2529

AFranzen@somervillema.gov